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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /075 W
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R 261520Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7594
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0893

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TO, CG, MILI
SUBJ: TOGO-ZAIRE RELATIONS HIT NEW HIGH WITH MOBUTU'S ARRIVAL

REF: KINSHASA 3636

1. TOGOLESE-ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL AMITY SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED NEW HIGH WITH ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU YESTERDAY (APRIL 25) FOR SECOND VISIT IN THREE MONTHS. LIKE JANUARY 13 VISIT, THIS ONE IS KEYED TO TOGOLESE NATIONAL DAY, CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE (APRIL 27). BUT ARRIVAL OF MOBUTU AND LARGE ENTOURAGE, PRECEDED EARLIER IN WEEK BY SOME 300 MPR "ANIMATEURS", TWO C-130 TRANSPORT AND FIVE ITALIAN-BUILT MACCHI JET FIGHTERS OF ZAIRE AIR FORCE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES, AND RETURN OF 335 TOGOLESE PARATROOPERS TRAINED IN ZAIRE, SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN TO OVERWHELM APTRIOTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLIDAY AND TURN IT INTO A MINI-TRIUMPH FOR MOBUTU. THIS MAY DIMINISH EYADEMA'S OWN PRESTIGE IN EYES OF SOME MORE SOPHISTICATED TOGOLESE, MANY OF WHOM DO NOT RPT NOT LIKE APING EVERYTHING ZAIRIAN FROM FLAGS TO SONGS. MEANWHILE TOGOLESE MASSES ARE PARTICIPATING ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS AND CITY HAS FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE TYPICAL OF PAST CELEBRATIONS. NEW RPT FLAG (VERY LIKE ZAIRE/MPR EMBLEM) HAS MADE FIRST APPEARANCE IN STREETS OF LOME.

2. MAIN THEMES OF PROPAGANDA AND EVENTS ARE EMPHASIS ON ROLE OF
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ARMY AND PARTY IN BOTH COUNTRIES, AND CULT OF AUTHENTICITY, WITH

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STRONG ANTI-FOREIGNER OVERTONES. EYADEMA SPEAKS TO NATION TONIGHT ON RADIO AND TV, BUT IF HE HAS SOME SURPRISES IN STORE THERE ARE NO RPT NO INDICATIONS YET AS TO THEIR NATURE. THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES, BUT AS OF NOW NO STRONG FAVORITE:

1) ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOME EXPANSION OF TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES AND GREATER ZAIRE-TOGO MILITARY COOPERATION (SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON PARATROOPS AND RECENT RECRUITMENT OF 650 MORE MEN);

2) SETTLEMENT OF CTMB AFFAIR, IN TERMS OF GLOWING VICTORY FOR TOGOLESE PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC LIBERATION;

3) MEASURES TO IMPOSE "AUTHENTIC", IN PERSONAL ATTIRE -- BUT, IN HAPPY CONTRAST TO DAYS BEFORE JANUARY 13 HOLIDAY, THERE IS NO RPT NO STRONG FEELING THAT THIS IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

3. THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 26) WAS TO HAVE FEATURED JOINT RPT-MPR MASS DEMONSTRATION OF ANIMATION IN EYADEMA STADIUM, AND INVITATIONS WERE ISSUED IN EYADEMA'S NAME. THIS MORNING'S PRESS AND RADIO ANNOUNCED THIS HAS BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL SUNDAY SO ZAF FIGHTER PLANES CAN PUT ON GROUND-SUPPORT FIRE DEMONSTRATION, TOGETHER WITH PARACHUTE DROP AT TOKOIN AIRPORT. WITH UTMOST CONFIDENCE IN ZAF ACCURACY, AARMA AND I ARE NOW LEAVING TO WATCH SHOW.
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